

## Claims

1. (original) A composition comprising a mixture of monoalkyl and polyalkyl lactyllactates of formula:



- in which R represents an alkyl radical containing a number of carbon atoms ranging from 1 to 4 and n is an integer equal to 2, 3 or 4.

2. (original) The composition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the alkyl radical is a methyl, ethyl, isopropyl or n-butyl radical.

3. (original) The composition as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the alkyl radical is an ethyl radical.

4. (previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1 comprising 100 parts by weight of:

- 35 to 85 parts by weight of alkyl lactyllactate;
- 10 to 60 parts by weight of alkyl dilactyllactate; and
- 1 to 20 parts by weight of alkyl trilactyllactate.

5. (previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an alkyl lactate of formula  $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}(\text{OH})\text{CO}_2\text{R}$  (II) in which R represents an alkyl radical containing a number of carbon atoms ranging from 1 to 4, in a proportion of from 0.1 to 1 part by weight per 100 parts by weight of said composition.

6. (previously presented) The composition as claimed in claim 4, further comprising polyalkyl lactyllactates of formula:



in which R represents an alkyl radical containing a number of carbon atoms ranging from 1 to 4 and in which n is greater than 4, in a proportion of from 0.1 to 4 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said composition.

7-9. (canceled)